

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02643 021714Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13 INR-10  
H-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00  
/064 W

-----090282 021730Z /43 S

O 021532Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6549  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: THE HORN: LAGOS MEETING

REF: STATE 53461

1. IN AFTERMATH OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION MEETING YESTERDAY WITH OBASANJO, WE HAVE OBTAINED INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF TALKS FROM ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES (THE CHANNEL THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY USES TO COMMUNICATE WITH ADDIS ABABA), ITALIAN EMBASSY (THEY HAVE GOOD CONTACTS HERE ON HORN MATTERS), SAMLI CHARGE' AND WORKING-LEVEL MEA OFFICIALS. ALL SOURCES CONFIRM, AS PREDICTED IN LAGOS 2267, THAT CONVERSATIONS PRODUCED ZERO RPT ZERO PROGRESS ON NARROWING GAP BETWEEN SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS OR THE KEY ISSUES AT STAKE.

2. MEA OFFICIAL TOLD ITALIAN EMBASSY THIS MORNING THAT, IN VIEW OF POSITIONS NOW PRESENTED TO FMG BY DELEGATIONS FROM EACH SIDE, NIGERIA WILL NOW RPT NOW CALL FOR MEETING OF EIGHT-NATION OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO MEA OFFICIAL, NEITHER THE ETHIOPIANS NOR THE SOMALIS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY SECURITY  
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COUNCIL ROLE. (COMMENT: ITALIANS ASSUME AND WE AGREE THAT THRUST OF NIGERIAN PRESENTATION TO COMMISSION WILL BE INABILITY OF NIGERIANS TO OBTAIN ANY SENSE OF COMPROMISE FROM EITHER SIDE.)

3. ACCORDING TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION CAME TO LAGOS ONLY IN DEFERENCE TO OAU PRINCIPLES AND STOOD FIRM IN TALKS WITH FMG REGARDING ETHIOPIAN INSISTENCE THAT THERE IS

NOTHING TO MEDIATE. THE DELEGATION REFUSED TO ACCEPT OBASANJO'S ATTEMPT TO LINK A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL WITH SELF-DETERMINATION OR AUTONOMY FOR THE OGADEN. IN THE ETHIOPIAN VIEW, THE ONLY ROLE THE OAU CAN PLAY IS TO FORCE SOMALIA TO WITHDRAW. THE PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE OF THE OGADEN MUST BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO ETHIOPIA.

NO RPT NO MEDDLING IN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN MATTERS CAN BE TOLERATED FROM THE OAU OR FROM ANY COUNTRY, AFRICAN OR OTHERWISE. ETHIOPIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO A MEETING OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION PROVIDED THESE PRINCIPLES ARE UNDERSTOOD. THE DELEGATION WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING, FRIDAY, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THESE POSITIONS PUBLIC AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. SOMALI AMBASSADOR GARRAD IS CURRENTLY IN TRIPOLI WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. HIS CHARGE' REPORTS THAT MINISTER KASSIM TOLD OBASANJO DURING HIS VISIT HERE LAST WEEK THAT SOMALIA MIGHT IN DESPERATION ACCEPT A 'MOVE FROM THE SOVIETS' TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HERE SAYS THIS STATEMENT FITS WITH A REMARK BY THE SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER TO FORLANI RECENTLY IN ROME TO THE EFFECT THAT SOMALIA MIGHT SOON HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO TURNING TO THEIR ERSTWHILE SOVIET PROTECTORS.

5. THE FMG IS PUZZLED BY SIAD'S TRIP TO TRIPOLI, INTERPRETING IT AS A POSSIBLE MOVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SOMALIA STILL HAS CARDS TO PLAY.  
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6. ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE HAS INFORMED US THAT ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED POINT OUT TO FMG THAT US AS WELL AS SOVIETS MAINTAINED TROOPS OVERSEAS. INSTRUCTION CONTAINED A BREAKDOWN OF NUMBER OF US TROOPS ABROAD BY COUNTRY.

7. I WILL BE SEEING GARBA FRIDAY AT 12 NOON LAGOS TIME AND WILL REPORT RESULTS BY IMMEDIATE NIACT MESSAGE.  
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MS. KENNEDY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, ET, SO  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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